



News Release

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
1301 N. Orchard St., Boise, ID 83706 - TEL: (208) 327-7900 FAX: (208) 327-7866
Internet Homepage: <http://www.idwr.state.id.us>

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STATE ENERGY DIVISION INTRODUCES
IDAHO EnergyStar® HOME CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

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For Media Information Contact:
Ann Brink - (208) 327-7976

Shopping for a high performance new home will now be a whole lot easier thanks to the new consumer program "Idaho EnergyStar®" launched by the Idaho Energy Division, state energy managers announced today.

Idaho EnergyStar® homes are backed by a national certification that the home has been built to national high standards of comfort, safety, durability and energy efficiency.

Idaho EnergyStar® certified homes are approximately twice as efficient as the current Idaho standard. This can result in substantial savings in utility costs over the life of the home, officials say.

"The Idaho EnergyStar® certification now lets consumers identify those new homes that meet the same high performance standards used to measure all other types of EnergyStar® products such as appliances, windows, etc.," said Anne Brink, the Idaho Energy Division's program manager.

Under the Idaho EnergyStar® program, specialists trained by the Energy Division are involved in the home building process. They initially work with subcontractors to guide them in the sophisticated techniques used in the Idaho EnergyStar® program for sealing, insulation, heating and cooling. They also conduct on-site inspections and, when the home is completed, conduct special tests to make sure the home meets Idaho EnergyStar® standards.

"This process gives consumers an unparalleled ability to know in advance that the home will meet high standards of comfort, safety, durability and long term energy performance savings," Brink said.

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Idaho EnergyStar® homes ensure better comfort by providing more consistent temperatures between and across rooms and minimizing drafts through increased insulation, tight sealing, energy efficient windows and performance-tested heating and cooling.

Idaho EnergyStar® homes also can improve indoor air quality by keeping out dust, radon, mold, carbon monoxide and excessive moisture by using sealed ductwork, balanced heating and cooling distribution and well-sealed construction.

“The Idaho EnergyStar® home features building techniques which can prevent moisture damage, energy efficient windows which reducing fading of furniture and finishes and heating and cooling equipment which lasts longer and performs better than that typically found in a new home,” Brink added.

Three new Treasure Valley area homes have been designated as Idaho EnergyStar® homes. One of the homes has already been sold to a local family that was shopping specifically for a high efficiency and performance dwelling. The three Idaho EnergyStar® homes will be featured in the Canyon County Parade of Homes that begins June 15.

For more information on the Idaho EnergyStar® program, contact Brink at the Idaho Division, 327-7976. Information is also available on the program’s Internet web site:

www.idahoenergystar.com.